



HERE AND THERE

A Comparison of the Bush Administration's Iraq Reconstruction Package

IRAQ	UNITED STATES
<p>\$6,000 per radio/telephone <i>The Bush Administration has requested \$3.6 million for 400 handheld radios and 200 satellite phones at an average cost of \$6,000 each.</i></p>	<p> \$14.99 – Cost of cordless phone in U.S.</p> <p> \$54.99 – Cost of walkie-talkie radios</p>
<p>\$33,000 per pickup truck <i>The Bush Administration has requested \$2.64 million for 80 pick-up trucks at a cost of \$33,000 each.</i></p>	<p> \$15,454 – Cost of the award-winning GMC truck</p>
<p>\$50,000 per prison bed <i>The Bush Administration has requested \$400 million to build two 4,000 bed prisons for a cost of \$50,000 per prison bed.</i></p>	<p> \$26,000 – Annual cost per prisoner of incarceration in the U.S., according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.</p>
<p>\$10,000 per month for business school <i>Administration has requested \$20 million to teach a 4-week course business course at a cost of \$10,000 per student.</i></p>	<p> \$4,000 – Per month tuition at Harvard Business School</p>
<p>\$200,000 per protected witness <i>The Bush Administration has requested \$100 million to protect 100 families with average of 5 members per family.</i></p>	<p> \$10,273 – Cost per witness for protection in the U.S. Federal Witness Protection</p>
<p>\$333 for 30 half days of computer training <i>The Bush Administration requested \$40 million for a \$333per-person, per-month half day computer course</i></p>	<p> \$200 – Cost of 6 month computer course at American community colleges</p>

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST OF \$20.3 BILLION FOR IRAQI RECONSTRUCTION

\$3.6 million for 600 radios and phones (\$6,000 each). Administration has requested \$3.6 million for 400 handheld radios and 200 satellite phones at an average cost of \$6,000 each. According to Business Week on May 12, "When Baghdad's telephone system was knocked out during the war, small-time Iraqi businessmen ordered up satellite phones from Jordan for \$900 each."

\$33,000 a piece for 80 pick-up trucks. Administration has requested \$2.64 million for 80 pick-up trucks at a cost of \$33,000 each. Prices in the United States for a new truck begin at \$14,000.

\$10 million for 48 bureaucrats (\$200,000 per bureaucrat). Administration has requested \$10 million to establish an office for 48 staffers to "regulate and inspect the standards and training of the guards of public facilities." Cost per staffer of \$208,333.

\$9 million for a state-of-the-art Iraqi postal service. Per capita, this amount is greater than the federal government spends annually on the U.S. Postal Service.

\$2 million for museums and memorials. Administration has requested \$1 million for "Memory Foundation" to record Saddam's atrocities, \$500,000 for a memorial marking atrocities his son committed against Iraqi athletes, and \$500,000 for a memorial at Abu Gharaib prison.

\$10,000 per month for business school - more than double monthly cost of Harvard Business School. Administration has requested \$20 million to teach a 4-week course business course at a cost of \$10,000 per student. Tuition at Harvard Business School costs less than \$4,000 a month.

\$200,000 per person witness protection - nearly 20 times cost of U.S. program. Administration has requested \$100 million to protect 100 families with average of 5 members per family. Per person cost of protection is \$200,000. The U.S. Federal Witness Protection program costs \$10,273 per person and the Iraq's GDP per capita is \$2,400.

\$1500 per student for a 6-month English class - at least 50 percent greater than U.S. cost. Administration has requested \$30 million to enroll 20,000 students in a 6-month English class in Iraq. American community colleges charge between \$500 and \$1000 for a comparable ESL course.

\$333 for a month of half days of computer training. \$55 million for computer training, including \$40 million for a \$333/month half-day course. American community colleges charge between \$100 - \$200 for computer training (6 months, three hours a week).

SOME OF THE ITEMS IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION’S \$20.3 BILLION REQUEST FOR IRAQI RECONSTRUCTION

- ! \$900 million to import petroleum products such as kerosene and diesel to a country with the world’s second-largest oil reserves
- ! \$800 million to create a 1,500-person police training force, with the trainers coming from outside Iraq
- ! \$400 million for two 4,000 bed maximum security prisons. (As Rep. David Obey has pointed out, “I can’t believe the Iraqis can’t build prisons for less than \$50,000 per bed!”)
- ! \$200 million to begin work on a brand-new \$1 billion water supply pipeline and water treatment plant in Basra/Umm Qasr
- ! \$164 million for refining the curriculum for training the Iraqi military
- ! \$150 million for a national “911” system
- ! \$150 million to begin work on a brand-new \$500 million to \$700 million children’s hospital, with “top level care for pediatric oncology, plastic surgery, burn treatment, specialized surgeries and high-risk pregnancies, with the latest technologies in radiology, ultrasound, physical therapy and other procedures”
- ! \$100 million to build seven new planned communities with a total of 3,258 houses, plus roads, an elementary school, two high schools, a clinic, a place of worship and a market for each (in what sense is this “reconstruction”?)
- ! \$100 million for 2,000 garbage trucks at \$50,000 a piece
- ! \$100 million to enroll 100 families of five in a witness protection program at \$200,000 a person
- ! \$100 million to finance 500 experts investigating crimes against humanity at \$200,000 a person
- ! \$82 million for the Coast Guard (Iraq’s coast is only 36 miles long!)
- ! \$54 million for “comprehensive technical and business process studies” into a computer network for the Iraqi public telephone system
- ! \$30 million for English as a Second Language courses for 20,000 Iraqis

- ! \$20 million for a four-week business course, at \$10,000 per student
- ! \$20 million to protect 400 judges and prosecutors at \$50,000 a person
- ! \$19 million to build a wireless Internet network
- ! \$10 million for 100 experts to assist prison reconstruction for six months at \$100,000 each
- ! \$9 million to “re-engineer” the business practices of Iraq’s postal service, including instituting ZIP codes
- ! \$4 million to create a nationwide system of area codes and telephone numbers